GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:174
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
LAYING OF OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) along the railway tracks;

(b) if so, the length of OFC laid and commissioned till date;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) whether private operators are allowed to use OFC network in order to generate revenue to the railways;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the name of stations where Internet CafÃ© facility is presently available;

(g) whether the Government proposes to expand this facility to other stations; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (h) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 174 BY SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.08.2005 REGARDING LAYING OF OPTIC FIBRE CABLE

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid on 27166 Route Kilometres of railway tracks till June, 2005. Out of this 23063 Route Kilometres of OFC has been lit / commissioned.

(c): The average cost of OFC laying comes to between Rs. 1.60 lakhs to Rs. 2.00 lakhs per km besides the cost of electronics and other equipment. This being ongoing process, the total cost of laid and commissioned OFC has not been estimated.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): The Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), namely RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. under the Ministry of Railways is generating revenues by allowing operators to use the OFC network. In the last three years, the total earnings of RailTel were as follows:

Year	Rs. in crore
2002-03	9.50
2003-04	25.95
2004-05	65.34

(f): At present, internet cafÃ© facility has been provided at Platform No.12 of New Delhi Railway Station only.

(g): Yes, Sir.

(h): For setting up of cyber cafes, Railways have planned & identified 82 stations to start with.